

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF RESEARCH, PLANNING  
AND PERFORMANCE  
MARCH 22, 2023**

**ITEM 7**

**SUBJECT**

WORKSHOP ON PROPOSED REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR MAKING WATER CONSERVATION A CALIFORNIA WAY OF LIFE.

**DISCUSSION**

On May 31, 2018, Governor Brown signed two bills, [Senate Bill \(SB\) 606 \(Hertzberg\)](#) and [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1668 \(Friedman\)](#). Referred to as the 2018 conservation legislation, these bills reflect the dedicated work of many water suppliers, environmental organizations, and members of the Legislature. Added by the 2018 conservation legislation, Water Code section 10609 et seq. required the Department of Water Resources to provide recommendations on and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) to adopt standards for the efficient use of water, variances for unique uses that can have a material effect on water use, performance measures for commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) water use, and guidelines and methodologies that identify how each urban retail water supplier (supplier) will calculate an urban water use objective.

Prior to consideration for adoption by the Board, State Water Board staff will develop a draft regulation establishing the standards, variances, methodologies for calculating the urban water use objective, performance measures, and related reporting requirements. The regular rulemaking process for that regulation will begin soon. Before beginning, the State Water Board will hold a public workshop to discuss and receive verbal and written comments on the staff's proposed framework to Make Water Conservation a California Way of Life.

A summary of the framework will be available at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/conservation\\_portal/regs/water\\_efficiency\\_legislation.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/regs/water_efficiency_legislation.html).

The State Water Board's staff proposal was informed by the formal recommendations provided by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on September 22, 2022. These are available at: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Water-Use-And-Efficiency/2018-Water-Conservation-Legislation/Urban-Water-Use-Efficiency-Standards-Variances-and-Performance-Measures>.

For reference, a tool that allows users to see how different parameter values affect the water use objective for any given urban retail water supplier is available at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/conservation\\_portal/regs/objective-exploration.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/regs/objective-exploration.html).

## **SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS**

The State Water Board will accept written comments on the staff proposed framework to Make Water Conservation a California Way of Life. To submit written comments, please use the subject line: "Comment Letter – Board Workshop on Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life." Written comments must be received by **12:00 noon on March 24, 2023**, and should be submitted via email to [orpp-waterconservation@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:orpp-waterconservation@waterboards.ca.gov). At the Board Workshop, commenters will be given an opportunity to make verbal comments to the Board or to summarize and supplement their written materials. If you would like to provide oral comments, please follow the remote participation guidelines available at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_info/remote\\_meeting/#provide\\_comments](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/remote_meeting/#provide_comments).

The Board's formal rulemaking process will begin soon. Comments heard at the workshop and submitted in writing by the above deadline will help inform the Board staff's proposal used to initiate the formal rulemaking process.

## **POLICY ISSUE**

Receive input on the proposed regulatory framework for making conservation a California way of life. No decisions will be made at the Board Workshop.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

None at this time; no decisions will be made at the Board Workshop.

## **REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None.